

FILE SUIT AGAINST THE TOBACCO TRUST

TO PROSECUTE
ITS OFFICERS

Possibility of That Depends on
Future Evidence — American
and Allied Concerns Under
Indictment—Charged
That It Holds
Monopoly.

NEW YORK, July 10.—(James C. McReynolds, the special assistant attorney-general, appointed to prosecute the so-called tobacco trust, declared to-day after filing the complaint in the case that he would not ask the court to order the court to appoint a receiver for the various companies would depend entirely upon the evidence secured from the witnesses summoned upon his complaint. He said that the prosecution of some of the defendants he named in the complaint is highly probable, and that the Sherman law, under which this action is brought, makes a conspiracy to restrain of trade a criminal offense. The nature of the complaint filed by Mr. McReynolds to-day is the waiver by him of the right of demanding answers under oath from corporations and individuals named as defendants in his complaint. The giving of such answers under oath might cause testimony from prosecution.

The individuals named as defendants and named as witnesses are James I. Duke, president of the American Tobacco Company; John H. Cobb, president of the American Sugar Company; William K. Harris, chairman of the board of managers of the British-American Tobacco Company; Caleb C. Dula, vice president of the American Tobacco Company; and John H. Hill, vice president of the American Tobacco Company; Percival S. Hill, vice president of the American Tobacco Company; W. C. Reed, agent in the United States for the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain; Thomas Ryan, secretary of the American Tobacco Company; and Anthony N. Brady and practically all of the other directors of the American Tobacco Company.

Attorney-General's Suit.

Mr. McReynolds appeared before the clerk of the court alone to file his complaint, but the petition is signed by Attorney-General Charles C. Bonaparte, Milton D. Purdy and Edwin Grosvenor and James C. McReynolds, assistants to the Attorney-General.

There was no hearing before the court, to-day's action being confined to filing the complaint.

Mr. McReynolds said that the ne-

step in the case would be the serving of the notices of the complaint upon the defendants and the filing of the reply or demurrer to the complaint. After that the witnesses would be called before the court and the taking of evidence would begin. At the conclusion of this the Assistant Attorney General would ask the court to take whatever action in the case he may consider desirable.

How to Name Receivers.

In reply to a question whether he intended to urge the court to appoint receivers for the various corporations, Mr. McReynolds said he could only decide that after hearing the evidence given by the witnesses.

"What precedent have you for asking for the appointment of receivers" he was asked.

"The Sherman law, under which this action is brought," replied Mr. McReynolds, "provides that the court may restrain and prevent the operations of a combination. If the court finds that the appointment of receivers is necessary to prevent operation of this combination it may appoint them. We ask the court to enjoin these companies. If it did so it might prevent men from buying tobacco, but if re-

Mr. McCreynolds said he had no idea how soon the taking of evidence would begin.

Many Under Indictment.

The petition filed by the government today is directed against the American Tobacco Company, the Imperial Tobacco Company, the British-American Tobacco Company, the American Cigar Company, the American Cigarette Company, the American Cigar Snuff Company, the American Cigarette Company, the United Cigar Storage Company, the American Snuff Company, the American Snuff Company, the MacAndrews and Forbes Company, the Conley Foll Company and fifty-six other corporations and twenty-nine individuals connected with the industry.

These corporations and individuals constitute what is generally known as the "Tobacco Trust," and the petition directed against them sets forth the purpose of the government to dissolve this trust by breaking up the agreements under which the consolidated concerns are working. In showing the growth of the "trust" since

That all of the defendants are engaged in interstate and foreign trade and commerce in leaf tobacco and products manufactured therefrom is alleged by the petition. It is stated that the act of June 2, 1890 "is pre-

that the act of July 2, 1890, to protect trade and commerce," and subsequent acts, have been violated, and the government therefore seeks to prevent and restrain the unlawful existing agreements, combinations and conspiracies, and attempts to monopolize, and break up perfected monopolies. The government asks that the existing combinations, conspiracies and monopolies be enjoined, and that each of

It is asked further that the Imperial Tobacco Company be enjoined from doing business within the jurisdiction of the United States until it shall cease to observe the terms of its agreement.
